Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

POLIOMYELITIS (INFANTILE PARALYSIS).

A PRELIMINARY NOTE ON THE EPIDEMIC IN VERMONT DURING THE SUMMER AND FALL OF 1914.

By CHARLES S. CAVERLY, M. D., President Vermont State Board of Health.

The following is a very brief general statement of the epidemic of poliomyelitis still prevailing in the State of Vermont (Oct. 9, 1914).

It should be mentioned that during the summer of 1913 an outbreak of this disease occurred in the northeastern section of this State, the chief force of the epidemic being felt in the town of Hardwick. There were in that general locality 37 cases of the disease, 17 of these occurring in Hardwick in a population of about 3,500 people.

Rather late in this epidemic, in the fall, two cases occurred in the town of Barton, about 18 miles from Hardwick. These cases were near some stone sheds and also near the railroad station.

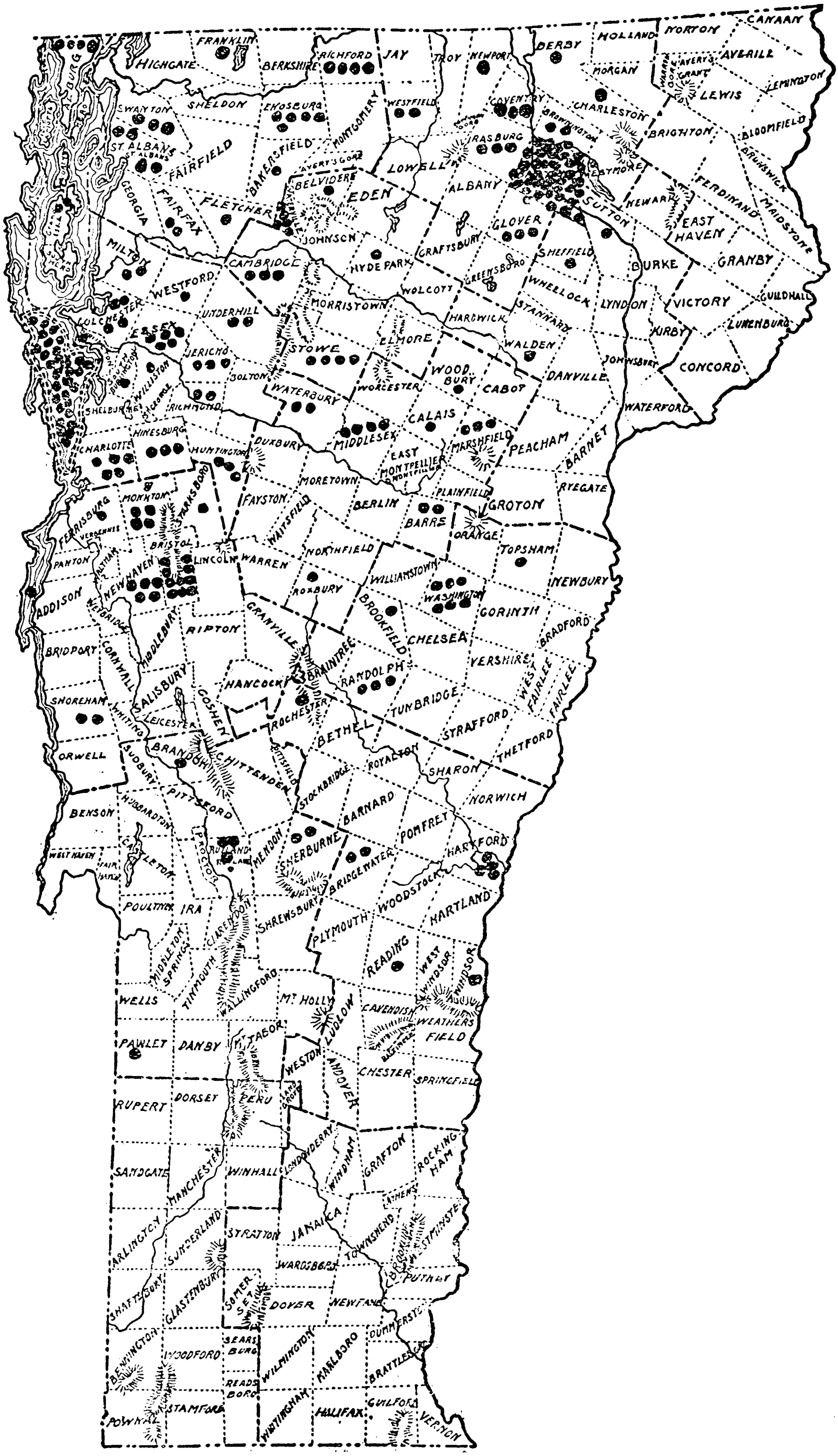
On July 18, 22, 23, 26, and 27, 1914, there occurred five cases of this disease, all in the same neighborhood in which the two cases were reported late last fall in the village of Barton. With this start the disease spread rapidly in Barton and the neighboring country and reached out west and south to other sections of the State.

Reference to the map will show that there now seem to be two main epidemic centers in the State, one at Barton and one at Burlington. The first case in the Burlington group occurred August 14. There was no discoverable connection between this and the Barton focus. On the same date, August 14, a case was reported at St. Albans in Franklin County. A case was reported August 22 at Middlesex (Washington County) and a case on August 24 at Monkton (Addison County). These dates mark the initial cases in various sections of the State.

Of course, it is too early to draw conclusions from this outbreak, which is not yet over, nor has it been possible to connect the different foci in the State. It will be noted by referring to the map that the two southern counties of the State have entirely escaped—that the next two north of these, viz, Rutland and Windsor, have only scattering cases, excepting the four at Hartford, and that the number of cases increases toward the north.

Another fact that should be borne in mind in this connection is that the apparently favorite center of this disease in past years, in and about Rutland, seems this year to be very nearly exempt. Hardwick, the center of last year's outbreak, has had no case this year.

There are no outbreaks of any severity in either of the adjoining States, as far as can be learned from official sources. A few cases have been reported along the northern part of the west shore of Lake Champlain and a few scattering cases are said to have occurred in New Hampshire.



Poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) in Vermont, 1914 (to Oct. 9).

All told, there have been reported 212 cases to date, with 32 deaths. These cases include only the frankly paralyzed cases. We have seen in a good many places cases that were undoubtedly of the abortive type. These supposedly abortive cases give histories of initial symptoms identical with those in which paralysis is present. The disease seems to spend itself before paralysis appears. Several of these were seen in Barton and were so classed by reason of the very apparent illness of the patients when they were seen, perhaps a week or two weeks after the acute symptoms. In each instance the anemic languid appearance of the child attracted notice. These cases, however, are not included in the statistics here presented. We have no means of even approximating the number of abortive cases that are occurring in this outbreak. It is at least a plausible theory that these ambulatory cases are prolific carriers and do much to keep up the epidemic.

The present year to date does not show unusually high temperature figures. In fact, June, July, August, and September have been cool months. The precipitation figures as given by the Weather Bureau station at Burlington show much less precipitation than the mean since the 1st of May. The summer of 1913 was dry, but the summer of 1914 has been much more so. Hence these figures correspond quite closely with those observed usually in epidemic years.

Some of the vagaries of this disease are well illustrated by the map. The disease, starting in Barton, seems to have spread westward rather than eastward. The lines of communication by highway and railroad are mainly toward the west. The northeastern county of the State is a sparsely settled mountainous region with comparatively little communication with the Barton neighborhood. The disease skipped from Barton to St. Albans and Burlington, two cities on the western side of the State, with scattering cases in smaller towns, while St. Johnsbury, Lyndon, Morristown, Montpelier, and Hardwick entirely escaped. There were six cases with three deaths in the families of the officers at Fort Ethan Allen, 6 miles from Burlington.

The disease in Burlington followed closely on a sharp outbreak of milk-borne typhoid during the first week of August. The first poliomyelitis cases were early considered as beginning typhoid.

The season at which the disease appeared was rather late, and cases are still appearing at the present writing (Oct. 9).

The disease is reportable under our regulations, is treated in every way like scarlet fever or diphtheria, and is subject to a four weeks' quarantine and terminal disinfection. Contacts are quarantined for two weeks after the last known exposure. In places like Burlington and Barton, where the cases were numerous, all public gatherings in which children participate, including the schools, Sunday schools, and moving-picture entertainments, are closed. These precautions have appeared to have a very favorable effect in stopping the outbreaks.

Several autopsies have been made and many animal inoculations and insect experiments by the pathologist, Dr. Stone. So far there has developed nothing new or significant.

This board is securing all data obtainable about the cases through field work by its inspector, Dr. H. A. Ladd, and a more complete history of the outbreak will be possible later.

PLAGUE-ERADICATIVE WORK.

CALIFORNIA.

The following report of plague-eradicative work in California for the week ended October 3, 1914, has been received from Surg. Long, of the United States Public Health Service, in charge of the work:

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Number of premises inspected	1,147
Number of premises destroyed	28
Number of nuisances abated	259
Number of poisons placed	29,900
Average number of traps set daily	1,734

RATS COLLECTED AND EXAMINED FOR PLAGUE.

Collected	593
Found dead	3
Examined	434
Found infected	None.

RATS IDENTIFIED.

Mus norvegicus	291
Mus musculus	85
Mus alexandrinus	137
Mus rattus	80

RATS TAKEN FROM STEAMERS.

Steamer *Matsonia*	7 mus rattus

PORT COSTA, CAL.

Rats trapped in warehouses	26
Rats trapped on waterfront	10
Rats trapped in sugar refinery	66
Rats examined	72
Amount of poisoned barley placed on hills (pounds)	5
Amount of poisoned bread placed in sugar refinery (pounds)	4
Amount of poisoned bread placed in warehouses (pounds)	2

RATS IDENTIFIED.

Mus norvegicus	34
Mus musculus	13
Mus alexandrinus	25
Mus rattus	41

Record of plague infection.

Places in California.	Date of last case of human plague.	Date of last case of rat plague.	Date of last case of squirrel plague.	Total number rodents found infected since May, 1907.
Cities:				
San Francisco	Jan. 30, 1908	Oct. 23, 1908	None	398 rats.
Oakland	Aug. 9, 1911	Dec. 1, 1908	do	126 rats.
Berkeley	Aug. 28, 1907	None	do	None.
Los Angeles	Aug. 11, 1908	do	Aug. 21, 1908	1 squirrel.
Counties:				
Alameda (exclusive of Oakland and Berkeley).	Sept. 24, 1909	Oct. 17, 1909[1]	Aug. 7, 1914	286 squirrels, 1 wood rat.
Contra Costa	May 17, 1914	None	Aug. 25, 1914	1,563 squirrels.
Fresno	None	do	Oct. 27, 1911	1 squirrel.
Merced	do	do	July 12, 1911	5 squirrels.
Monterey	do	do	Apr. 10, 1914	6 squirrels.
San Benito	June 4, 1913	do	July 3, 1914	35 squirrels.
San Joaquin	Sept. 18, 1911	do	Aug. 26, 1911	18 squirrels.
San Luis Obispo	None	do	Jan. 29, 1910	1 squirrel.
Santa Clara	Aug. 31, 1910	do	July 23, 1913	25 squirrels.
Santa Cruz	None	do	May 17, 1910	3 squirrels.
Stanislaus	do	do	June 2, 1911	13 squirrels.

---

[1] Wood rat.